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THURSDAY
JULY 8, 1954

I finished Pierre Daninos' amusing book Les Carnets du Major Thompson, which has had a huge success. The reflections of the hypothetical retired English Indian Service Major on life in France are hilarious. I have lately read the first volume of Edward Spears' Prelude to Dunkirk. His bitter criticism of French generalship in the Second World War, of the disorganization of the civil government, of the rivalry of Countess de Portes and the Marquise du Crussol, exercising influence respectively through Reynaud and Daladier, is certain to arouse great controversy. His description of Gaston Palewski's personal appearance is not likely to endear him to that gentleman. As the [redacted] representative of Churchill to Reynaud, his position as an observer was unique, and I look forward with eagerness to the following volume.

Last night [redacted] was cool, and today it was clear with refreshing breezes from the hills ruffling the lake's surface, on which floated swans asleep.

Bert took an early airplane for London. Eva, E. and I lunched at another Michelin-recommended restaurant, L'Hermitage, at Clavières. The chef fully justified his reputation.

We walked, read, Eva and E. pedalled, visited the camp, and, still replete from lunch, we went supperless to bed.

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